



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3200  
HELENA, MONTANA 59626

Ref: 8MO

April 9, 2009

Ms. Valerie Nottingham, Chief,  
Environmental Quality Branch  
Division of Environmental Protection  
Office of Research Facilities  
National Institutes of Health, B13/2S11  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Re: CEQ 20090078: Final EIS for Rocky  
Mountain Laboratories Master Plan

Dear Ms. Nottingham:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VIII Montana Office has reviewed the March 2009 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) Master Plan in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA appreciates receipt of responses in the FEIS to agency and public DEIS comments. We acknowledge the inclusion of additional information and discussion regarding environmental justice in the FEIS, as well as responses explaining that the National Institutes of Health and Rocky Mountain Laboratory have extensive safety, security, biosafety and biocontainment programs and requirements that will be incorporated into existing programs and systems under the Master Plan. We are pleased that safety and security audits are conducted throughout the year internally and externally, including by agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Safety and security issues are also addressed by the Institutional Biosafety Committee and Security Operations Advisory Committee, and in regular meetings regarding general safety, radiation safety, and security and emergency response. This information resolves our concerns.



The EPA appreciates the effort that went into the preparation of this EIS. If you have any questions please feel free to call Mr. Stephen Potts of my staff in Helena at 406-457-5022 or in Missoula at 406-329-3313. We thank you for the opportunity to participate in the NEPA process.

Sincerely,



John F. Wardell  
Director  
Montana Office

*FOR*

cc: Larry Svoboda/Connie Collins, EPA, 8EPR-N, Denver